

**DECLARATION FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As below named inventor, I hereby state and declare that:

My citizenship, residence, and post office address are as stated next to my name and signature below.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **INERT GAS BLANKET FOR PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION** of which a specification is attached hereto (Docket No. **BLANKET-358**).

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including its claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability of this application under 37 CFR 1.56. Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information not already of record in the application, and it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim, or it refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position I take in opposing an argument of unpatentability relied upon by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or in asserting an argument of patentability.

I claim the benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of U.S. provisional patent application number **60/062,133** filing date **10/15/97**.

I appoint Christopher John Rudy, Reg. No. 31873  
209 HURON AVE, PORT HURON MI 48060  
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with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (to include any abandonment thereof) and to whom all written and oral communications should be directed therefor.

All statements made herein, of my own knowledge are true, and on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under 18 USC 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the present application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor Name Richard H. HALL  
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Signature 

Date October 10, 1998

Signature 

Date 98/10/10

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**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**Docket Number (Optional)  
BLANKET- 358Applicant or Patentee: Richard H. Hall and Theodore W. SelbySerial or Patent No.: UtilityFiled or Issued: ConcurrentlyTitle: INERT GAS BLANKET FOR PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.☐ the application identified above.☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.☐ Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code; and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Richard H. Hall

Theodore W. Selby

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Date

Date

Date

(2-92)

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE